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Identical letters dated 25 February 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information:

On the morning of Saturday, 25 February 2017, an armed terrorist group active in Homs city carried out a series of savage attacks. Six suicide bombers struck simultaneously, attacking two security compounds and adjacent areas in the city. Some 50 civilians and soldiers were killed, and at least 24 others were injured.

The terrorist organization Nusrah Front/Front for the Conquest of the Levant, which is one branch of the global Al-Qaida organization in the Syrian Arab Republic, has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack. The six terrorists blew themselves up at the direction of their handlers. They were following the extremist Wahhabist terrorist ideology that they had absorbed.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns this shameful terrorist crime, along with the other savage crimes committed by armed terrorist groups associated with the terrorist organizations Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It calls on the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Security Council to condemn this cowardly attack.

It should be noted that the terrorist crime took place on the third day of the consultations convened in Geneva by the United Nations Special Envoy. Its aim was to reverse the positive outcomes of the first and second meetings in Astana. In view of this ominous development, the Special Envoy must also condemn the terrorist acts, and the groups taking part in the Geneva negotiations must, without exception, condemn these acts of terrorism.

The moment of truth has come: it is now clear that the international community and, in particular, the Security Council have been slow to do what it takes in order to join forces and combat terrorism, which claims greater numbers of innocent Syrian lives with every passing day. The United Nations must now endeavour to prevail on the Governments of those States that sponsor the terrorist groups to desist from violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations, bring an end to the crimes of their terrorist acolytes, and comply fully with the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions

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1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2016), in addition to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resolution adopted at the fifth review of the Strategy.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to condemn these terrorist acts and redouble their efforts to bring the international community together in working to eliminate terrorism and hold its State sponsors accountable. These savage terrorist acts will not distract Syria from its role in combating terrorism, which poses a threat to all Syrians and to security and stability in the region and the world.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.